

Schedule of Events

Monday, April 4th

7:00 p.m. | Rodgers Chapel

The Way of Manna:

Hearing the Agrarian Voices of the Bible

Dr. Ellen Davis with Charles Pettee & FolkPsalm

Tuesday, April 5th

9:00 a.m.

Registration (Lois K. Murphy Regional Center)

9:30 a.m.

Workshops

11:00 a.m.

Chapel Worship led by Tim Reaves

12:00 p.m.

Lunch with Panel Discussion

2:00 p.m.

Workshops

7:00 p.m. | Rodgers Chapel

Life on God's Farm

Dr. Norman Wirzba

All events are free. The lectures are open to the public. Participants are encouraged to register for the workshops in advance by contacting Laura Getz at Mount Olive College at 919-635-2787 or lgetz@moc.edu.

Sponsors:

The Mount Olive Area
Ministerial Association

The Thriving Rural Communities
Initiative at Duke Divinity School

The Presbytery
of Coastal Carolina

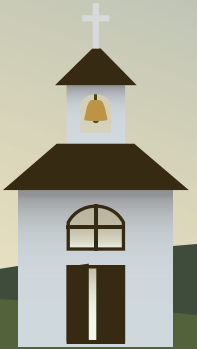
The Barrow Advisory Committee
at Mount Olive College

The Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship of North Carolina

Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Faith and Rural Life

Down to Earth Ministry



April 4 & 5, 2011

A gathering of clergy and laity
in Eastern North Carolina
to explore the shape of
Christian community and
the nature of Christian
mission in our small-town,
rural context.

An Ecumenical Gathering of
Christians at Mount Olive College

Monday, April 4, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | Rodgers Chapel

**The Way of Manna:
Hearing the Agrarian Voices of the Bible**

Dr. Ellen Davis with Charles Pettee & FolkPsalm



Dr. Ellen Davis is the Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School. Professor Davis is interested in theological interpretation of the Old Testament, with particular concern for reading Scripture as it is useful for Christian ministry, including preaching, developing a biblically-based understanding of creation and the land,

and advancing theological dialogue among the three faiths that claim Abraham as an ancestor. A lay Episcopalian, Dr. Davis is also active in formation of Christian seminaries in Southern Sudan.

Charles Pettee and Elizabeth Bahnsen form part of the bluegrass musical group **Charles Pettee & FolkPsalm**.

A professional Bluegrass artist, composer, and lifelong musician whose works have aired in over 20 countries, Charles Pettee became fascinated with the Psalter back in 2001 when it occurred to him that these ancient Hebrew prayers were, originally and essentially, folk songs. Charles Pettee is joined for this performance by fiddler and vocalist Elizabeth Bahnsen of Brevard, NC, who is a founding member of the highly successful group the Steep Canyon Rangers and a 2008 graduate of Duke Divinity School.



Tuesday, April 5, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | Rodgers Chapel

Life on God's Farm

Dr. Norman Wirzba



Dr. Norman Wirzba is Research Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Rural Life at Duke Divinity School. He writes and teaches on topics that relate to the health of land and communities together. He has written *The Paradise of God and Living the Sabbath*, and edited *The Essential Agrarian Reader* and the collection of essays by Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace*.

His most recent book is *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*.

Workshops

Being the Missional Church in a Rural Context

Rev. Neal Cox, Senior Pastor Wintergreen OFWB Church
This seminar will deal with the challenges and opportunities which many rural communities face. Recapturing the concept of Christian community will be suggested as one of the best ways to allow the church to be Missional in a broken, disjointed, and individualistic society. Neal Cox is an instructor of religion for Mount Olive College, the director of the Modular Religion Program at the New Bern and Washington campuses, and the Senior Pastor at Wintergreen Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Serving the Whole Person:

Ministry with and for Rural Immigrant Farmworkers

Fr. Tony Rojas, Executive Director, Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry, Newton Grove

This workshop will examine the Episcopal farmworkers Ministry in Newton Grove in order to explore the realities facing immigrant farmworkers and the ways that churches can respond to their needs. Father Tony Rojas was born in Colombia. He is the priest and Executive Director at the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in Newton Grove, which responds to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. The ministry provides regular worship services for over 500 farmworkers and their families, making it the largest Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of East Carolina.

Why and How to Start a Church & Community Garden

Fred Bahnsen and Claire Hermann

Fred Bahnsen (a writer, small-scale farmer, and former Kellogg Food and Society Fellow) will share from his experiences as co-founder and director of Anathoth Community Garden, a ministry of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, including its challenges and successes. Claire Herman, Coordinator for the "Come to the Table Project" of the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA) will also describe lessons learned about the growing movement among churches around the country who are using agriculture to both renew their faith and serve their communities.

**Deer Hunting with Jesus:
Ministry in Blue Collar Communities**

Rev. Jeremy Troxler, Director, Thriving Rural Communities Initiative at Duke Divinity School

Some mainline Christian churches and pastors experience a "class-gap" when they try to be in ministry with surrounding communities that are culturally, economically, or politically very different from their own congregation. Drawing on the work of Tex Sample, Rev. Jeremy Troxler will talk about the spirituality of rural, "blue-collar" folks and how pastors and churches can share the gospel in a way that truly speaks to country people, and all people.

Evangelism for the Rural Church

Rev. Chuck Cook, Superintendent of the Goldsboro District of the United Methodist Church
Many rural congregations hesitate to move outside the walls of the family chapel and to unabashedly share the gospel with the community around them. In this workshop, Rev. Chuck Cook, Superintendent of the Goldsboro District of the United Methodist Church, will share practical ways that rural churches can reach the unchurched in their communities and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Promoting Health as a Faith Issue

Willona M. Stallings, MPH, Program Coordinator, Partners in Health and Wholeness

Partners in Health and Wholeness, a new initiative of the North Carolina Council of Churches, seeks to promote health as a practice of Christian faith. With thousands of North Carolinians dying of preventable diseases each year, it is important for members of the faith community to take seriously our own health as well as the health of our neighbors by being physically active; eating healthy, well-balanced meals; and not using tobacco products. Workshop participants will gain a better understanding of the connection between our faith and health and walk away with clear, simple strategies for promoting health and wholeness in their congregation and wider community.

Pastoral Care in a Rural Context

Mac Wallace, Campbell Divinity School

This workshop will address the unique challenges of providing effective pastoral care in a rural context. H. Mac Wallace, D.Min., LMFT is a NC licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a certified Pastoral Psychotherapist and an Approved Supervisor with the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Additionally, he is an ordained minister, a Supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), and the Senior Professor of Pastoral Care at Campbell University Divinity School. He taught CPE, Pastoral Counseling, and Marriage and Family Therapy at NC Baptist Hospital for fifteen years and opened the Baptist Hospital CareNet Counseling Center in Wilmington in 1991.

Educating the Next Generation: The Challenges & Blessings of a Rural Christian Education Program

Julian Pridgen, pastor, St Augustus AME Church, Kinston, NC
This workshop will explore models and methods for effective and powerful Christian Education programs in a small church setting. Julian Pridgen is the pastor of St. Augustus A.M.E. Church in Kinston, NC, where he has been since 1999. He is a native of Whiteville, NC and received his MDiv from Duke Divinity School.